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LEADING THE WAY: Teachers **Liz Smith**, **Pete Kinnaman**, **Rebecca Redding** and **Katlin Cauffman** are working to develop a new health sciences curriculum that will serve as a standard for the National Consortium on Health Science and Technology Education. Meridian Medical Arts Charter High School is one of seven U.S. schools working on the project.

Teachers help shape health curriculum

Meridian charter school approach could become national model

By Michelle Cork
Our Towns

What and how students at Meridian Medical Arts Charter High School learn about bio-ethics this month could be used as a model for other schools throughout the country.

Four of the school's 15 teachers are developing a new health sciences curriculum that will serve as a standard for the National Consortium on Health Science and Technology Education.

Two education experts will visit the school the week of Oct. 10 to observe the bio-ethics unit being taught in classrooms. The lessons will be available in ready-made packages to schools in other states — from public schools with designated health-care tracks of study to private and magnet schools.

"It will be an outline of curriculum that will meet some state standards — if not all state standards — and certainly all national standards," says social studies, psychology and fitness teacher **Pete Kinnaman**.

The team from the Medical Arts Charter joined six others from high schools in California, Utah, New York, Illinois, Indiana and South Carolina in a weeklong institute in Utah this past August.

Each team drafted a curriculum package on a different topic. Each is "integrated." In other words, it's designed to be used in many subjects. As an example, Kinnaman says reading **Lance Armstrong's** book "It's Not About the Bike: My Journey Back to Life" for English would open up a discussion about cancer that could be continued in chemistry class with a study of radiation treatment.

"We try to have thematic units where we're reinforcing the same idea in multiple classes," he says.

Katlin Cauffman teaches health occupations. She says that while the team's work has national scope, her students in Meridian will benefit.

"It's comprehensive through all of their classes so it's much more in-depth and there's more time spent on it," Cauffman says.

Science teacher **Rebecca Redding** says the school was picked by the state in part because it's already using some integrated curricula.

Liz Smith was one of eight teachers on a committee that designed the Medical Arts Charter. Now the one who coordinates the students' internships and job shadows, she says the team's work was a gratifying reality check for the now three-year-old school.

"It really confirmed that we are, in fact, on the right track and we're having successes," she says. "As I looked at the national programs and at national standards, it was all right there."

Next the committee will develop a curriculum for a unit on genetic disorders.

HIPE Week

The school will have several assemblies and activities to highlight the role Medical Arts Charter students can play in the future of health care during Healthcare in Partnership with Education (HIPE) Recognition Week Oct. 10-14.

The schedule includes a guest speaker talking about the role of Alzheimer's care givers, a Health Occupation Students of America quiz challenge and recognition of the school's professional partners with certificates and root beer floats.

You're invited to Memory Walk

Meridian Medical Arts Charter High School's HOSA, or Health Occupation Students of America, club is organizing the school to participate in Memory Walk at 10 a.m. Oct. 8 at Municipal Park near the MK Nature Center in Boise.

The 2.3-mile walk will raise money for the Alzheimer's Association. To walk or to make a dona-

tion, contact Katlin Cauffman at the school at 855-4075.

The club is also selling teeth-whitening kits in conjunction with **Carl Stubblefield's** Eagle Heights Dental to raise money for club dues and to send its members to state and national competitions.

The certificate is \$75 and includes a free office visit. Contact Cauffman for more information.